



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED ON DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MOLOKA'I FOREST RESERVE

HONOLULU – The public is invited to provide comments on a draft management plan for Moloka'i Forest Reserve through July 22, 2009. The plan is one in a series of site-specific plans to be prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for individual forest reserves in the State.

"Moloka'i Forest Reserve is the only forest reserve on the island of Moloka'i and is one of the State's most diverse," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

In keeping with the purpose of Hawai'i's Forest Reserve System, Moloka'i Forest Reserve provides the public with a safe water supply, recreational opportunities, and contains a wealth of cultural and natural resources.

The associated management plan provides both a historical context and current description of resources within Moloka'i Forest Reserve, in addition to providing guidance for future management activities."

The plan presents a brief history of Moloka'i Forest Reserve, a complete record of land transactions and boundary changes over time, a description of cultural and natural resources, as well as an account of infrastructure and intended use(s) of the area.

The plan will serve to: (1) assist in preparation of regulatory compliance documents required to implement management actions outlined in the plan; (2) support DOFAW efforts to secure funding for plan objectives; (3) prioritize implementation of management objectives; and (4) solicit requests for proposals or bids to implement plan objectives.

The plan approval process includes review by DOFAW Maui Branch and administrative staff, partner agencies and the public, approval by the administrator of DOFAW, and finally approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The draft management plan for Moloka‘i Forest Reserve will be posted on the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) website at <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw> in the “Announcements” section. If anyone desires this information in an alternate format, please contact Jacquie Robson at 808-587-4166.

Moloka‘i Forest Reserve was established in 1912, incorporating 44,674 acres of public and private lands across central and east Moloka‘i for the purpose of protecting and permanently maintaining mountain forests in order to ensure continued regular stream flow.

Today, management of the over 11,500 acres of public land in the Forest Reserve is carried out by DOFAW. Primary goals for the management of Moloka‘i Forest Reserve include maintaining a healthy watershed; protecting forest resources from fire, insects, and disease; and maintaining habitat for threatened, endangered, and rare plants and animals.

Hawai‘i’s Forest Reserve System, which currently encompasses approximately 637,000 acres of conservation land, was created in 1903 with the goal of protecting forests and other watershed areas to ensure an ample water supply for the people of Hawai‘i.

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